3:Zeisberger M-5 (1767-1780)1910
NM7 Delaware NM7



were generally careful to keep burning. On journeys they were accustomed to carry fire with them from one lodging-place to another, for which purpose they used a certain kind of fungus,[40] that grows upon trees. With such a glowing piece of fungus they could travel from morning to evening. This custom has to the present day not ceased among the Indians, nor has the method of making fire described above, some still employing it on special occasions and in connection with their sacrifices, in order to remind themselves of former customs and usages. Firewood they did not split in former days nor could they have done so with their hatchets of stone. They burned it into pieces of such length that could be carried home. They built a fire against the trunks of standing trees and kept it burning until they fell, which method still obtains among them, especially the older ones, for whom it is difficult to fell trees and split wood and who, perhaps, do not even own a hatchet. These may not burn a piece of split wood during a whole winter, but provide fuel for themselves in the manner described, which is quite easy and convenient for them.

Canows made of wood as well as bast, they also had in earlier days, fashioning the former out of a whole tree trunk, which they burned out and only used their hatchets to chop off glowing coals, lest they should burn in deeper in one place than another or even burn a hole through.

Their dwellings were huts of bark, which they lined with rushes in order to keep out the cold, roofed they were with bark, even as is the case now, though sometimes rushes or long, dry reed-grass served the purpose.

Underground dwellings there were, also, of which here and there traces may be found, particularly along the Muskingum, in which region one may yet see many places, where embankments, still to be seen, were thrown up around a whole town.[41] Here and there, furthermore, near the sites of such towns there are mounds, not natural, but made by the hand of man, for in those days the natives carried on great wars with one another, Indians being formerly, according to their own testimony, far more numerous than at the present time. At the top of these mounds there was a hollow place, to which the Indians brought

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often dyed red with cinnabar about the neck. Such a shirt may be worn unwashed until it is torn. More careful women, however wash their clothing. Men and women paint their faces almost daily, especially if they go out to a dance in the evening. Men, particularly, think it is proper to paint and often their whole head is colored vermillion.[255] Here and there black spots may be introduced, or they paint one-half of their head and face black, the other red. Figures are added according to taste.[256] Indian women never paint their faces with a variety of figures, but rather make a round red spot upon each cheek and redden the eyelids, the tops of their heads and, in some cases, the rims of the ears and the temples.[257] Older women adorn themselves but rarely, usually appearing in old cast-off garments. Even if the husband of such a woman provides new clothing, she will rarely put it on, especially if she has a daughter to whom she gives the new clothing in exchange for old garments.

Their towns are generally laid out near a lake, river or brook, yet sufficiently elevated to escape the danger of inundations, which are very common in spring. In building towns no regular plan is observed but every one builds according to his fancy. The houses are not built close together. Some years ago, when the Delawares planned Gochachgünk, they wished to imitate the Christian Indians and build their town in orderly fashion but they did not succeed, even though they had laid it out. When they have lived long in one place, it at last becomes troublesome to secure wood for fuel because all the wood in the neighborhood has been used. This causes them to leave the place and plan a new village for the sake of the wood and other conveniences. Although they have horses that roam about and are rarely used except when they wish to ride, it is too troublesome for them to break these to work and, furthermore, since fetching wood is the work of the women, the men do not concern themselves about it.

Of inheritances they know nothing. Every Indian knows that whatever he leaves at his death is divided among his friends. If a woman becomes a widow, no matter how long she may have lived with her husband, friends come, take everything that be-

(Lindstrom, p. 215). Men went by themselves or took their families to the woods for periods of several days or weeks. In addition to their dependence on a steady aim with bow and arrow, they attempted to attract the animals by the use of charms and imitations of their calls (Harrington, 1913, pp. 221-22; Loskiel, p. 77). Loskiel, in the eighteenth century, also mentions the practice of chasing wounded deer for long distances if they did not fall on the first shot, but this cannot be documented by earlier accounts (Loskiel, p. 76). 224

Early Swedish writers noted that turkeys and other birds, deer, beavers and other small animals were snared (the twitchup is the only type of snare specifically mentioned) and beavers were sometimes killed with a lance (Johnson, p. 281). Pigeons might be killed by cutting all sides of a tree used as a roost, then toppling it when the birds alighted (Lindstrom, pp. 216-17). 224 223

Remnants of the Delaware's hunting equipment are found abundantly in their old haunts. Stone arrow points and lance heads are particularly numerous, but antler points are found in smaller quantities (Abbott, 1875, p. 269; Skinner, 1915, p. 10; Smith, p. 139; Kalm, p. 230). Stone axes suitable for crushing bones or shells, and knives suitable for skinning and cutting up the meat are also found in abundance (Abbott, 1875, pp. 264 and 303; Skinner, 1909, pp. 18-20; Kalm, p. 230; Heye, p. 71). 224 412 411

Even the earliest writers were aware to some extent of the reverence in which Delaware hunters held the provider of their sustenance. Lindstrom and Penn mention that the first catch of the season was eaten at a special feast accompanied by singing and dancing. All that was not eaten was burned, and on no account was any part sold (Lindstrom, pp. 214-15; Penn, p. 38). Boys did not begin hunting until about fifteen years of age, sometimes starting as the result of success in obtaining a guardian spirit through a vision. It was believed that the youth would be able to catch all that he desired on the day after such a vision (Lindstrom, p. 208). 224 [787]

The women's main contribution to the food supply lay in agriculture. Without doubt the most important crop was maize, of which the Delaware had several varieties[2] (De Rasieres, p. 107; Johnson, p. 279; Kalm, p. 74; Lindstrom, p. 223). To get some impression of the amount of maize grown, we may note that Krieger, commander in an expedition against one band of New Jersey Delaware in 1663, says that he cut down 215 acres of maize and burned more than 100 pits of corn and beans (Krieger, p. 39). There are also ample references to the cultivations of beans, squash (including pumpkins) and tobacco[3] (Harrington, 1913, p. 221; Johnson, p. 279; Kalm, p. 74). 241

Since the Delaware had no axe adequate to cut down a tree of any considerable size, they cleared their fields by seriously bruising the bark of the trees, thereby killing them. In this operation they [313 412]